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[No.10746–LSA–27/2016(Pt.)/L.]

**LAW DEPARTMENT**

RESOLUTION

The 26th October, 2016

**Sub: Establishment of Legal Assistance Centre in the Gram Panchayats of the State.**

To provide access to justice to people deprived due to social and economical reasons and to those living in rural areas of the State, in shape of free legal aid, and in order to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, the State Government have decided to establish Legal Assistance Cells in each Gram Panchayat of the State.

1. This Legal Assistance Scheme is called as “Madhubabu Aain Sahayata Scheme”.
2. The scheme is aimed at revamping the socio-economic structure at the grass root level by making citizens aware of their rights and by providing free legal advice at the door step.
3. A Legal Assistance Cell named as “ Madhubabu Aain Sahayata Sibir ” (MASS) shall be opened in each Gram Panchayat which shall function in the Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra Building or in Gram Panchayat Office building. One front room in the aforesaid building with basic furnitures viz. one table, six chairs and other office stationeries (pen, paper etc.) will be provided by the respective Gram Panchayat.
4. It will operate once in a week preferably on Saturday or Sunday subject to maximum four times in a month.
5. For every MASS, one Legal Assistance Lawyer shall be engaged by the Government in Law Department from out of a panel of three names to be recommended by a committee consisting of the concerned Collector, Project

Director of the District Rural Development Agency and the Block Development Officer having jurisdiction over the Panchayat. To be eligible for being recommended for engagement as the Legal assistance Lawyer, one must be a practicing lawyer for a minimum period of three years and preference will be given to woman lawyers. The engagement will be for an initial period of two years which may be extended subject to assessment of performance;

Provided that the State Government may at any time disengage the Legal Assistance Lawyer before completion of his term.

6. The Legal Assistance Lawyer shall render,
  - a. meaningful service to the people in need of legal assistance particularly women, children, senior citizens, Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe or Socially and Economically Backward Class persons and people in distress;
  - b. service to make people aware of their rights and the benefits of schemes introduced by the State Government from time to time;
  - c. necessary help to common people in mitigating their grievance with the Government offices, authorities and other institutions;
  - d. necessary assistance in the spread of legal awareness among people, and
  - e. any other service which may be assigned by the State Government, from time to time.
7. The Grama Rojgar Sevak (GRS) of the Panchayat will render all logistic assistance to the Legal Assistance Lawyer in discharging his duties. Wherever GRS is not available, the Panchayat Executive Officer (PEO) will provide the assistance and will be paid incentive accordingly. The GRS/ PEO will also identify the person in need of legal assistance. He (GRS/ PEO) will maintain the record of cases in a register where legal assistance service was rendered.
8. The Legal Assistance Lawyer shall be paid fee of Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred) only for attendance in each sitting. The GRS / PEO will be paid incentive of Rs.150/- (Rupees one hundred and fifty) only per sitting as incentive for coordinating smooth functioning of the centre:

Provided that the State Government, as considered fit, may increase the fee and incentive from time to time.

9. The B.D.O. shall supervise the functioning and the services rendered by the Legal Assistance Lawyer and the GRS/PEO and furnish a report through the PD, DRDA annually to the State Government.
10. For the purpose of sanction of sitting fee to the Legal Assistance Lawyer and incentive to the GRS/PEO, the B.D.O. shall be the sanctioning Officer.
11. This has been issued with concurrence of Panchayati Raj Department and Finance Department.

#### ORDER

Ordered that the Resolution be published in the Extraordinary issue of *Odisha Gazette* and copies be forwarded to all Departments of Government/Heads of Departments/Collectors/B.D.O.s/A.G.(A&E)/Audit, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for information.

By Order of the Governor

B. P. ROUTRAY  
Principal Secretary to Government